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Muhammad Ibrahim KAMIL
(Phonetic: KAmil)

EGYPT

Minister of Foreign
Affairs (since December
1977)

Addressed as:
Mr. Minister



Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, a dark-horse candidate, was named Foreign Minister after Isma'il Fahmi resigned to protest President Anwar al-Sadat's peace overtures to Israel. Sadat has always placed a high premium on loyalty in his advisers, and he was extremely bitter over Fahmi's departure. In choosing Kamil as a replacement, he was influenced by Kamil's personal and political loyalty as well as his past diplomatic experience. Kamil has the full confidence of the President. The two men have been close friends since they were in prison together in 1946 for alleged complicity in a political assassination attempt.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Despite his highly visible role in the recent Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations, Kamil is not a policymaker. Sadat's dominance in the decisionmaking process--especially in foreign policy--has become increasingly evident since the peace talks began with Israel. [REDACTED]
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Foreign Policy Views

A strong advocate of pan-Arabism, Kamil has been concerned about Egyptian isolation in the Arab world as a result of the Sadat peace initiative; since entering office, he has worked hard to

(cont.)

[redacted]

reestablish some element of Arab solidarity. Kamil feels that Egypt has little to show for its peace overtures. He regards this as largely the result of Israeli intransigence and believes that only an active US role in the negotiating process and US pressure on Israel will force the necessary Israeli concessions. Kamil favors a more non-aligned foreign policy: he believes that too close an association with the United States may be detrimental to Egyptian long-range interests. He has tried unsuccessfully to encourage President Sadat to pursue a more balanced foreign policy with the United States and the USSR.

Early Career

Kamil graduated from the Faculty of Law of Fu'ad I (now Cairo) University in 1947. He joined the foreign service in 1954 and was first secretary in London from 1955 to 1956. He then served in the Department of International Treaties at the Foreign Ministry until his assignment as Counselor at the Embassy in Mexico in 1958. In mid-1959 Kamil was appointed Consul General in Montreal and was charged with establishing the Consulate there. He subsequently served as Counselor of Embassy in Ottawa during 1962-63 and as director of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry during 1963-64. Kamil became Ambassador to the Congo (now Zaire) in February 1964. Shortly after his arrival, Egypt and the Congo broke relations, and he returned to Cairo to become director of the Foreign Ministry's Press Department. After the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with the Congo in 1968, Kamil returned to serve as Ambassador until 1971. He was Ambassador to Sweden during 1971-73 and then to the Federal Republic of Germany from 1973 until his appointment as Foreign Minister.

[redacted]

Kamil, 51, is [redacted]

[redacted]

Married, he has two sons. He speaks excellent English.

17 August 1978